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(54) **Data management system for programming-limited type semiconductor memory and IC memory card having the data management system**

(57) In a data management system for a programming-limited type semiconductor memory (M) which is programmable a limited number of times and which includes a plurality of storage areas, a management unit (1) manages, for each of the storage areas, the number of times that programming has been performed. A control unit (2) selects one of the storage areas for which programming has been performed the smallest number of times and has input data is written into the selected one of the storage areas, so that all the storage areas can be equally programmed.

FIG. 7

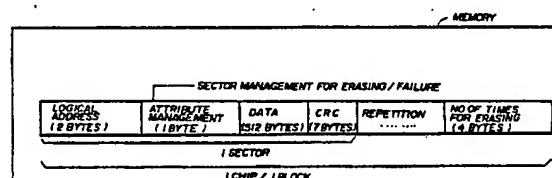
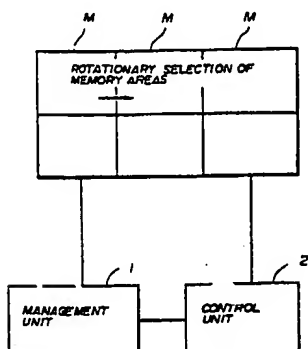


FIG. 1



EP 0 686 976 A3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.5)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	US-A-4 780 855 (IIDA ET AL)	1,2,10, 11	G11C16/06 G06F3/06
A	* column 2, line 41 - column 6, line 40; figures 1-5 *	3,12	
A	--- EP-A-0 392 895 (SUNDISK CORPORATION)	1-3,6,7, 10-12, 15,16,18	
	* column 4, line 55 - column 7, line 9; figures 1B-3A * * column 9, line 36 - column 11, line 47; figure 5 *		
P,A	--- EP-A-0 477 503 (FUJI PHOTO FILM CO. LTD)	1-5, 10-14	
P,A	--- EP-A-0 492 450 (FUJI PHOTO FILM CO. LTD.)	1-5, 8-14,17, 19	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5) G11C G06F
	* column 4, line 50 - column 9, line 3; figure 2 * * column 9, line 35 - column 11, line 8; figure 5 * -----		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 30 September 1996	Examiner Cummings, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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